

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 XMB-07 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-07 MC-02 DODE-00 AID-20

OMB-01 RSR-01 /079 W

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1959

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ESTC ETRN MZ

SUBJ: PROPOSED EXIM BANK FINANCING FOR AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 74920 AND 101012; LOURENCO MARQUES 20

1. CIVIL AERONAUTICS DIVISION HAS NO RECORD OF APPLICATION TO PURCHASE FOUR SHRIKE COMMANDERS BY TRANSPORTES AEREOS COMERCIAIS (TAC) OF NAMPULA, AND PRESUMES DEAL STILL IN PRELIMINARY STAGES. TAC PRESENTLY HAS FULL FLEET OF FIVE PLANES (MAXIMUM PERMITTED BY REGULATIONS FOR OPERATION BY ANY SINGLE AIR TAXI COMPANY) WHICH INCLUDES TWO SHRIKE COMMANDERS AND ONE AERO COMMANDER 690. HOWEVER, PLANE LIMITATION CONCERNS AIR TAXI OPERATIONS (ON GROUNDS THAT FIVE PLANES CONSTITUTE MAXIMUM SMALL COMPANY CAN SAFELY OPERATE WITHOUT GROUND CONTROL CREWS, ETC.), AND USE OF PLANES FOR CHARTER PURPOSES WOULD BE ONE METHOD GETTING AROUND IT. TAC MAY ALSO BE BUYING ON BEHALF AFFILIATED AIR TAXI COMPANIES IN OTHER PARTS OF MOZAMBIQUE (E. G. EMAC AND TAZ OF QUELIMANE, TAN OF VILA CABRAL) (SEE L. MARQUES 20, JAN 10).

2. AIR TAXI TRAFFIC HAS BEEN INCREASING DRAMATICALLY IN RECENT YEARS. AIR TAXI FLIGHT- HOURS, WHICH HAD BEEN STABLE AT ABOUT 10,000 HOURS PER YEAR FROM 1962 TO 1966, ROSE TO 13,000 IN 1967 AND 1968, 17,000 IN 1969, 23,000 IN 1970, AND

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28,000 IN 1971. WE HOPE HAVE 1972 FIGURES SHORTLY. CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES EXPECT RAPID INCREASE TO CONTINUE.

3. WE HAVE AT PRESENT NO REASON BELIEVE AIR TAXI PLANES BEING

DIVERTED OTHER COUNTRIES OR BEING USED IMPROPERLY FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. FURTHER, CIVIL AIR AUTHORITIES UNLIKELY APPROVE ALLOCATION SCARCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO ECONOMICALLY UNWARRANTED PURCHASES. AS THINGS NOW STAND, TOTAL AIRTAXI FLEET REGISTERED HAS INCREASED FROM 37 PLANES ON JANUARY 1, 1972 TO 54 PLANES ON APRIL 30, 1973.

4. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING, THUS FAR WITHOUT SUCCESS, TO CONTACT TAC DIRECTLY IN NAMPULA TO CONFIRM ORDER AND OBTAIN DETAILS AS TO PROPOSED USE FOUR NEW AIRCRAFT. WHILE WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE FINDING IRREGULARITIES, SUGGEST EXIM CONSIDERATION BE DELAYED UNTIL WE GET REPLY FROM TAC.
VAN OSS

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